

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation and so frightening to me. This smacks of propaganda; causing me great concern about continued use of the media to shape public opinion. This is not healthy for a democracy. Without trying to sound hysterical, I really can see how continued use of the media in this fashion can easily feed in to the evolution of a more dictatorial leadership in this country.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Please intervene to prevent the Kerry smear from taking place. Thank you.